

Hackelia venusta (Piper) St. John
showy stickseed
Boraginaceae (Borage Family)

Status: State Endangered, USFWS Species of Concern
Rank: G1S1

General Description: Short, moderately stout perennial, 8-16 inches tall; stems often many from a slender taproot, leafy, erect or ascending, spreading hirsutulous below the middle, becoming strigose above. Leaves uniformly spreading hirsute, ciliate; radical leaves few, 3 to 6 inches long, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, narrowly elliptic, petiolate for $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ their length; lowermost cauline leaves linear, early deciduous, remaining cauline leaves 1-2 inches long, $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, lanceolate, narrowly elliptic, or narrowly oblong, sessile, reducing only slightly upward to the inflorescence, there giving way quickly to small bracts. Pedicel rather long, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in fruit. Calyx $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, linear-lanceolate. Corolla limb white or washed with blue, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch wide. Fornices with appendages showy, truncate or very slightly emarginate. Anthers $<1/16$ inch long. Nutlets $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, ovate.

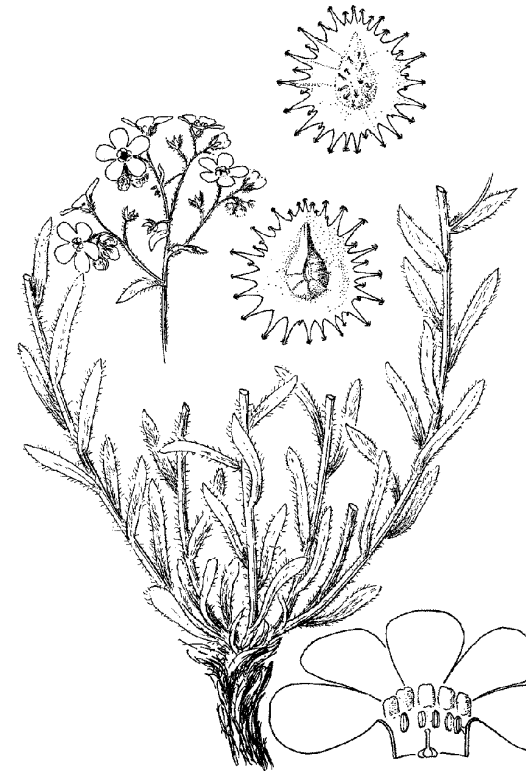
Identification Tips: Other members of the genus occurring in central Washington (*Hackelia hispida* var. *disjuncta*, *H. micrantha*, and *H. diffusa* var. *arida*) tend to be taller, have longer leaves and more basal leaves, and have smaller flowers. *H. hispida* var. *disjuncta* has greenish-tinted flowers. *H. micrantha* has blue flowers. *H. diffusa* var. *arida* has white flowers with papillate-pilose fornices and occurs in the vicinity of *H. venusta* in similar habitats. A technical key is recommended for positive identification.

Phenology: *H. venusta* is identifiable by its flower and fruit characteristics from May through July. It flowers in May and June.

Range: Local endemic; Wenatchee Mountains, Chelan County, WA. The taxon occurs in the Eastern Cascades physiographic province.

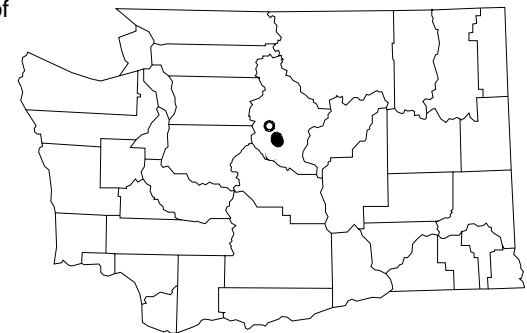
Habitat: Dry, loose granitic sand and crevices in granite or talus. It ranges from 1500 to 2500 feet in elevation. Slopes range from 25-70 degrees. Vegetative cover is generally quite low. Associa-

Hackelia venusta
showy stickseed



©1959 University of Washington Press. Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish.

Known distribution of
Hackelia venusta in
Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

Hackelia venusta

showy stickseed



Hackelia venusta

showy stickseed

Habitat (continued): ted species include opportunists which grow in disturbed areas where competition is low.

Ecology: The species is restricted to sites with low overall vegetation cover resulting from unstable slopes and periodic fires.

State Status Comments: Small population size and very limited range are the primary factors contributing to the status of this species in WA. This species has been in decline for a number of years. There is currently only one known extant population.

Inventory Needs: Inventory of potential habitat should continue throughout the historic range of the species.

Threats and Management Concerns: The combination of fire suppression and fire pose a significant on-going threat. Fire suppression allows plant succession to proceed, resulting in increased competition and slope stabilization, which are negative factors for *Hackelia venusta*. Fire may lead to increased slope instability resulting in a large slide burying much of the population. Highway maintenance and reconstruction activities should be coordinated with the USFS and USFWS. Two noxious weeds, dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed occur within the species' range. Control of these weeds should be considered a high priority. Other potential threats include recreation and mineral exploration.

References:

Croft, L.K., W.R. Owen and J.S. Shelly. 1997. Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project Analysis of Vascular Plants.

Gentry, J.L. and R.L. Carr. 1976. A revision of the genus *Hackelia* (Boraginaceae) in North America, north of Mexico. Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 26: 121-227.

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 510 pp.